U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR

EL PASO LOCAL PROTECTION PROJECT
SOUTHEAST EL PASO FLOOD CONTROL REHABILITATION
EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

A feasibility survey for flood control and allied purposes at and in the vicinity of El Paso, Texas, was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 3 July 1958 (Public law 85-500, Section 206). The resulting report by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, dated 31 January 1964, determined that a flooding problem existed. This flooding was attributed to runoff in poorly defined ephemeral tributaries of the Rio Grande that originate in the nearby Franklin Mountains and on bluffs and terraces east of the city. A plan to provide increased flood protection for the northwest, central, and southeast areas of the City of El Paso was developed and subsequently authorized by the Flood Control Act of 27 October 1965 (Public Law 89-298). The plan consisted of a combination of channels and dams that, combined with the City of El Paso's existing flood control facilities and agricultural drains, would intercept arroyo and street runoff and convey it to the Rio Grande. The non-Federal financial responsibility of any work carried out under this section of the Act is 25 percent. The local sponsor is responsible for operation and maintenance of the completed project.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) entitled, *El Paso Local Protection Project, Southeast Area, El Paso, Texas,* was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, and completed in September 1987 and is hereby incorporated by reference. Under the EIS Recommended Plan, a combination of existing and new flood detention basins and channels were constructed to collect, detain, regulate, and discharge flood flows into a segment of the existing agricultural drainage system (Mesa Drain). The work was completed between 1989–1991 and included modifications to the then existing Phelps Dodge Channel and Phelps Dodge Basin, and the construction of the new Americas Basin. The following rehabilitation work is now planned for these specific project features (see attached General Plan and Vicinity Map):

Site 1. At Inlet C on the north side of Phelps Dodge Channel, a section of undermined wire-wrapped rip-rap (wwrr) on the north bank above the concrete channel approximately 250 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 5 feet deep would be removed and replaced with flowable fill. Access to the site would be on existing city roads through an adjacent paved parking lot. Staging would occur on top of the existing channel berm/maintenance road.

Site 2. At Inlet C and Phelps Dodge Channel, a cracked, 7-foot long by 2.8-foot wide section of tapered bull nosed concrete wall junction would be replaced and would include slight design modifications. Site access and staging would be the same as for Site 1.

Site 3. At Inlet D at Phelps Dodge Channel, due to a crack in the floor, a 5-foot long by 4-foot wide tapered bull nosed concrete wall junction would be removed and replaced along with a 28-foot long by (average) 4-foot wide section of channel slab. Site access would be via Hawkins Street with staging on the adjacent berm/maintenance road.

Site 4. The Hawkins Street Concrete Box Culvert expansion joints failed upstream and, along with the downstream end expansion joints, would be replaced. Site access would be via Hawkins Street with staging on the channel berm/maintenance road.

Site 5. Dumped rock would be placed on 9,000 square feet of basin side slopes of Phelps Dodge Basin between the inlet structure and the spillway near Hawkins Street to provide additional slope protection that was omitted during original construction. Site access would be from Hawkins Street with the staging area adjacent to the work site.

Site 6. Three inches of gravel surfacing (choking) would be placed on top of a 1900-foot long by 20-foot wide strip of existing rock on the dam crest of Phelps Dodge Basin to create an access road for vehicles. Site access would be via a gate on Phoenix Avenue.

Site 7. The embankment on both sides of the Arlington Drive Inlet Structure at Phelps Dodge Basin was damaged by heavy runoff in a 1996 storm. Two 96-foot long by 15-foot wide areas (2,880 square feet), one on each side of the inlet channel, would be stabilized with wwrr. Approximately 22,000 square feet of bank flanking both sides of the wwrrr would be regraded and stabilized with dumped rock. Site access would be from existing local roads with staging on the adjacent basin berm.

Site 8. Access doors would be constructed on trash racks of the intake structures at Phelps Dodge Basin and Americas Basin. Access would be from existing roads with staging on-site.

Site 9. Ladders and platforms would be constructed at the gate wells of Phelps Dodge Basin and Americas Basin. Access would be from existing roads with staging on-site.

Site 10. Gate height indicators would be installed in the gate wells at Phelps Dodge Basin and Americas Basin.

Site 11. A staff gage would be installed on the Phelps Dodge Basin embankment.

Site 12. To protect the structure, random fill would be placed over the recently constructed concrete box culvert to Inlet A of Lomaland Phase IIIA.

Site 13. To direct water flow, a grated inlet and concrete training walls would be installed at the Burnham Drive inlet at Inlet A of the Lomaland Phase IIIA. For Sites 12 and 13, access would be from Burnham Road with staging on the maintenance road adjacent the work areas.

The work would not affect any Federal or State of Texas listed threatened or endangered species occurring in El Paso County, as there is no suitable habitat within any of the work sites. The proposed repair work would not affect waters of the United States regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, a Section 404 Department of the Army permit would not be needed for the project. The rehabilitation work would not occur in or alter any natural feature or use of any floodplain; therefore, the planned action is consistent with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management). The work complies with Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) as no wetlands would be impacted by construction activities.

All archaeological surveys and requisite consultation with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer were completed prior to original construction. The proposed rehabilitation of the existing facilities would involve no new impacts to previously undisturbed ground. This project would have No Effect to the cultural resources of either the City of El Paso or the State of Texas.

The following additional elements of the local environment were considered in analyzing impacts from the proposed project: physiography; geology and soils; biological resources; land use, recreation and socioeconomic considerations; climate; hydrology and hydraulics; water quality; and air quality and noise. Due to the scope, nature, and location of the proposed construction activities, the proposed work would have no significant effects on the physical, biological, socioeconomic, or cultural resources of the area.

Standard Best Management Practices (BMP) would be followed during construction. All work and staging would be limited to the designated or otherwise approved sites within previously altered urban or project areas. The proposed activities would be limited to the designated or otherwise approved areas and would be shown on the construction drawings for construction areas, staging, access, and borrow use. Unless previously cleared for use for the original construction work, the Corps' approvals of borrow and waste areas would be required regardless of their ownership or distance to the construction sites to ensure protection of environmental and cultural resources and compliance with Section 404 of the CWA.

In consideration of the above, the proposed action would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for the El Paso Local Protection Project, Southeast El Paso Flood Control Rehabilitation, El Paso, El Paso County, Texas.

____24 March 2003_____
DATE

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Dana R. Hurst
Lieutenant Colonel, EN
District Engineer